

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-37 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 8, 14, 18, 19, 21-24, 28, 30 and 36 have been amended.

Claims 17 and 37 have been canceled.

Unless otherwise specified in the below discussion, Applicants have amended the above-referenced claims in order to provide clarity or to correct informalities in the claims. Applicants further submit that, unless discussed below, these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the claims. Applicants have also canceled claims in order to clarify the issues for prosecution. By these amendments and cancellations, Applicants do not concede that the cited art is prior to any invention now or previously claimed. Applicants further reserve the right to pursue the original versions of the claims in the future, for example, in a continuing application.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-21, 24-32, 34, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,361,359 issued to Tajalli et al. (“Tajalli”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,981 issued to Noguchi et al. (“Noguchi”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In order for a claim to be rendered invalid under 35 U.S.C. §103, the subject matter of the claim as a whole would have to be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. See 35 U.S.C. §103(a). This requires: (1) the

reference(s) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations; (2) there must be some teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine references either in the references themselves or in the knowledge of the art; and (3) there must be a reasonable expectation of success. See MPEP 2143; MPEP 2143.03; *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1355-56 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

As an initial matter, to the extent that the language previously discussed is present in the current claims, Applicants incorporate all arguments related to the patentability of the claims presented in previous responses to Office Actions. In addition, Applicants present the below discussion with regard to the amended claims.

Independent Claims 1, 14 and 24, as amended, each contain limitations of substantially the following form:

using the application program to perform audit trail functions comprising generating a list of business components included in the application program, wherein

a business component of the list of business components comprises one or more fields corresponding to records in a database separate from the application program, ...

providing the audit trail to the database associated with the fields of the business component.

See, e.g., Claim 24 (amended). Applicants respectfully submit that neither Tajalli nor Noguchi, alone or in combination, discloses these limitations.

As amended, the independent claims describe the claimed business components to comprise one or more fields corresponding to records in a database separate from the application program. The application program that performs audit trail functions generates a list of these business components, and among other things, provides the audit trail to the database that is associated with the fields in the business component. This alleviates the need for a user to have knowledge of or access to the table structure in the

database to configure database audit trails. Support for these amendments is provided throughout the original Application. *See, e.g.*, Application, p.2, ll.5-11 (motivation behind the invention), p.5, ll.24-29 (providing audit trail to database), p.6, ll.10-19 (description of business component), p.9, ll.27-30 (description of business component).

The cited sections of Tajalli and Noguchi fail to provide disclosure of such a relationship between the elements of each identified by the Office Action to be associated with the claim limitations. The cited sections of Tajalli merely provide a purported mechanism for auditing “operating system requests made by ordinary users and application programs” (Tajalli 15:65-66) (called “user activity data”) and “periodically capturing system activity information” (Tajalli 16:4-5) (called “system status data”). This audit information is then disclosed to be written to a log file on the disclosed protected media as processes occur. *See* Tajalli 16:30-49. There is no disclosure that this log file is in any way associated with the elements of Tajalli or Noguchi suggested to be related to the claimed business objects (e.g., Tajalli’s application programs 514 [*see* Office Action, p.6]). In fact, Tajalli’s application programs 514 have no access to the disclosed protected media 118 or how auditing is performed. *See, e.g.*, Tajalli 15:20-24 (“neither application programs 514 nor ordinary users 128 ... can affect the auditing or the storage of usage auditing in any way”).

Further, there is no disclosed mechanism in either Tajalli nor Noguchi for providing the audit trail information to a database associated with fields comprising the claimed business objects. This is not contemplated by Tajalli because Tajalli only stores the audit file on the protected media for subsequent analysis of how the computer system is being used (*see* Tajalli 17:14-27) and not for tracking changes to data in a database and

potentially recovering prior data associated with database records. Noguchi doesn't contemplate this as Noguchi doesn't contemplate data logs at all.

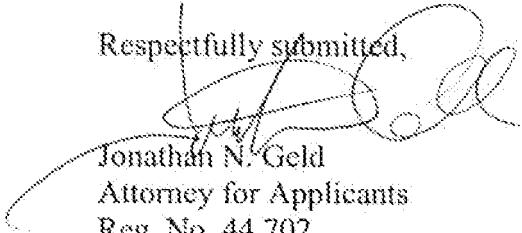
For at least the above reasons, and those discussed in responses to previous Office Actions, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 14 and 24, and all claims depending therefrom, are allowable as claimed. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections as to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5090.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,


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